

Claims

[c1]

1. A tableted gum comprising:
a gum component including one or more gum chips; and
a tableting media.

[c2]

2. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableting media comprises a tableting powder.

[c3]

3. The tableted gum of claim 2 wherein the tableting powder is composed of particles that are smaller in size than the gum chips of the gum component.

[c4]

4. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c5]

5. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c6]

6. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c7]

7. The tableted gum of claim 6 wherein the tableted gum comprises a top portion which contains a substantial amount of the gum chips of the gum component.

[c8]

8. The tableted gum of claim 7 wherein the gum chips are differently colored than the tableting powder.

[c9]

9. The tableted gum of claim 1 further comprising a food grade lubricant.

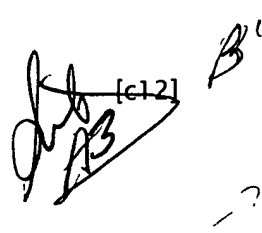
[c10]

10. The tableted gum of claim 9 wherein the food grade lubricant is selected from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, carboxy methyl cellulose and mixtures thereof.

[c11]

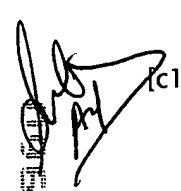
11. The tableted gum of claim 1 wherein the tableted gum comprises

a sugar tableted gum or a sugar free tableted gum.

 [c12] ~~12.~~ A gum comprising a mixture of gum chips and tableting media in a tableted form wherein the gum chips have an average particle size greater than an average particle size of the tableting media.

[c13] 13. The gum of claim 12 wherein the average particle size of the gum chips ranges from about 0.5 mm to about 6.0 mm. *1/4" & up more => 4-6 mm => 1/4"*

[c14] 14. The gum of claim 12 wherein the gum chips comprise about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

 [c15] ~~15.~~ A method of producing a tableted gum comprising the steps of:
providing a gum component;
processing the gum component to form one or more gum chips;
mixing the gum chips with a tableting media; and
processing the mixture of gum chips and tableting media to form the tableted gum.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum component is chilled prior to forming the gum chips.

[c17] 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture of gum chips and tableting media is punched or pressed to form the tableted gum.

[c18] 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the tableted gum comprises a top portion that is concentrated with the gum chips of the gum component.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the gum component comprises a different color than the tableting media.

[c20] 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the gum component and the tableting media have a same or similar color.

[c21] 21. The method of claim 15 wherein the mixture of gum chips and tableting media includes a food grade lubricant to facilitate forming the

tableted gum.

[c22]

B'

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the food grade lubricant is selected from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, carboxy methyl cellulose and combinations thereof.

[c23]

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the food grade lubricant comprises magnesium stearate ranging from about 10% or less by weight of the tableting media.

[c24]

24. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 40% to about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c25]

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the gum component comprises about 40% by weight of the tableted gum and the tableting media comprises about 60% by weight of the tableted gum.

[c26]

26. The method of claim 15 wherein the gum chips have an average particle size that ranges from about 0.5 mm to about 6.0 mm.

0068276-079401